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Memorial on Extension of the Central Rail Road to the Town of Newbern

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[Senate Doc. 84.]

MEMORIAL

TO THE

LEGISLATURE OF NORTH-CAROLINA,

ON THE

EXTENSION OF THE CENTRAL RAIL ROAD

TO THE

TOWN OF NEWBERN.

RALEIGH:
Thos. J. Lemay, Printer to the State.
1850.

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Senate, Dec. 9, 1850. Presented by Mr. WASHINGTON. Read and referred to Committee on Internal Improvements and ordered to be printed.

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MEMORIAL.

To the Honorable, the Senate and House of Commons of the State of North Carolina, in General Assembly convened.

The memorial of the undersigned citizens of the Counties of Craven, Jones, Lenoir, Greene, and others, respectfully sheweth unto your honorable body, that the town of Newbern is, and ever has been, the principal market town and shipping port for the produce of all that section of country embraced between the waters of the Tar river on the north, and the Whittock river on the south, and extending as far into the interior of the State as the Counties of Wayne and Johnston—the population of which said district numbers about 54,000 persons, and producing among other things, 3,180,000 bushels of corn, 167,145 head of hogs, 3,650,000 pounds of cotton, 270,000 barrels of Turpentine, and lumber to the value of 80,000 dollars; besides having $700,000 capital invested in commerce, and $250,000 in manufactures, the greater part of which said productions has heretofore been shipped from and through the port of Newbern. In addition to all which, the trade of the said town with the Western counties of this State has heretofore been carried on by means of wagons, to a very large and considerable extent. The merchant receiving the productions of the West, consisting of flour, lard, pork, bacon, Whiskey, tobacco, butter, &c., in quantities sufficient to supply the home demand, and leaving a large surplus for exportation; and exchanging therefor the products of the West Indies and Northern markets.—The Western trade demanding West India produce, and furnishing the means to an extent which kept over sixty sail of vessels actively and constantly employed in that branch of business alone. The imports and exports of said town being some millions in value, and both the town and surrounding country exhibiting a degree of prosperity and advancement, which was truly cheering and encouraging to a patriotic bosom.

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And your memorialists further shew, that since the system of Internal Improvements, adopted and prosecuted with so much energy and wise foresight by the State of Virginia on the north, and South Carolina on the south of us, opening up facilities and means of communication to their own markets from the very bowels of our own State, by the superior advantages of their Rail Roads and other modes of transportation, our planters from the west, from the north and from the south, have been induced by the greater ease with which they can reach the markets and ports of other States, entirely to neglect and abandon our own towns and sea-ports, and transfer their whole trade, with all the profits arising therefrom, to the Commercial marts of other States, thereby depriving our own citizens of the wealth arising from such commerce and traffic, and almost entirely estranging citizen from citizen, and creating a feeling of coldness and indifference between the Eastern and Western sections of our State. In illustration of which facts, your memorialists would cite your Honorable body to the single article of tobacco, of which, this State produces 17,000,000 of pounds; scarce a pound of which passes through our own ports, nor does the State of North Carolina even get the credit abroad of producing a pound of that valuable and highly important staple; Virginia manufactures it, Virginia ships it, Virginia makes the profit on it, and Virginia receives *all the credit for it.*

And your memorialists further shew, that in consequence of said Internal Improvements and other facilities possessed by neighboring States, and our own utter destitution of any other means of transportation than the common wagon and carts of the country, the great Commercial and Shipping interests of this State are now in a very precarious and languishing condition; the trade of the west which heretofore bouyed up and sustained the same, has been drawn off to swell the commerce and enrich the citizens of other States; and instead now of receiving the bacon, lard, flour, tobacco, whiskey, butter, &c., from the west in an abundance, not only to supply the demand for home consumption, but with a large surplus for exportation, and thus using the productions of our own State and contributing to the wealth of our own agriculturist, and in return supplying him with the productions of other marts, we are now actually importing for home consumption of Northern pro-

duce; Flour to the amount of 7000 barrels; lime 4000 barrels; pork 3100 barrels; butter 37,500 pounds; whiskey 1921 barrels; hay 94,200 pounds; coal 300 tons; potatoes 4200 barrels; cheese 25,000 pounds; tobacco 10,000 pounds; buckwheat, vinegar, &c., &c., besides larger quantities of such dry goods and wares, as are now being manufactnred in the west and within the borders of our own State; and instead of sixty vessels and more being engaged in supplying the demands of our trade with the West Indies, the sailing of a vessel for those Islands is but an occasional thing; and the produce of those places which we now consume, actually reaches us by way of and through the port of New York. To so low an ebb has our once flourishing trade and commerce sunk in consequence af the want of adequate facilities for intercommunication with our own eitizens of the interior,

In consideration of the premises, and forasmuch as the only remedy for these eyils which the experience of your memorialists suggests should be devised, is, the construction and building of a Rail Road in connexion with the Central Rail Road, and from the terminus of the same, to the said port of Newbern, thereby affording those facilities for internal commerce, communication and exchange, of which we are now entirely destitute, and of which we so severely feel the need, enabling us again to build up our depressed trade, commerce and manufactures, and developing those resources of our native State which should place us foremost in the rank of wealth, power and improvement amid our sister States, and to the sustaining and perfecting this work of most obvious necessity, we confidently look to the fostering care and patriotic devotion of your Honorable body, and to aid and assist them in carrying out this most laudable work, your memorialists do humbly pray your honorable body to grant them a Charter for a Rail Road to extend from the terminus of the Central Rail Road to the town of Newbern, with the privileges, immunities and restraints, and upon the same terms and conditions as the charter granted by your honorable body to the said Central Rail Road Company; and that the State may become interested to the same extent in the Stock thereof, and that your honorable body will grant such other and further aid and relief in the premises as the nature and circumstances of this case may require, and as to your honorable body shall seem meet.

And your memorialists as in duty bound will ever pray, &c.

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Emmet Cuthbert,
Wm. H. Pearce,
Charles Kelley,
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